



SUMMARY

Indiana's Proposed Rules for Educator Preparation and Accountability (REPA)

Updated Dec. 10, 2009.

- **Requires Emphasis on Content-Knowledge.** Proposed changes would revise the licensing requirements to emphasize teachers' content knowledge.
 - **Elementary teachers** (K to 6) must earn a baccalaureate degree consisting of an education major with a content-area minor OR a content-area major with an education minor.
 - **Secondary teachers** (grades 5 to 12) must receive a **baccalaureate** degree consisting of any applicable content-area major — as well as a minor in education.
- **Opens Door to Non-Traditional Administrators.** Proposed changes would allow school boards to hire administrators outside of the traditional education system.
 - A school's governing body may apply to the Professional Standards Board for a temporary administrative license for a nontraditional superintendent for a period of time determined by the school's governing body.
 - If granted, these temporary administrator licenses would only be valid within the employing school district.
- **Requires Testing of Every New Teacher Before Entering the Classroom.** Proposed changes would require all teaching candidates to pass certain tests to demonstrate competence in content-area knowledge and pedagogy (including the PRAXIS II exams).
 - PRAXIS I tests would no longer be required for licensure. Instead, teaching applicants would be required to demonstrate basic skills before being admitted to schools of education.
- **Changes Novice-Teacher Programs.** Proposed changes would eliminate portfolio and mentor program for new teachers. Mentor programs would become a local option. Related changes would:
 - Create a simplified Beginning Teacher Residency Program, in which a building-level administrator will be responsible for assessing a new teacher's effectiveness and developing a plan for professional improvement.
 - Make NCATE measurement optional for school-of-education accreditation.
- **Allows Current Teachers to use In-service Credits for License Renewal.** Proposed changes would make tuition-based course requirements for teachers to renew their licenses optional as verified by the building level administrator. Educators would have the option to use in-service credits and professional development programs verified by a building-level administrator for renewal. This could save teachers as much as \$1,400 every five years in tuition costs.
 - Only activities and courses directly related to student achievement will count toward renewal.

- **Simplifies Licensing Process for Out-of-State Teachers & Career Changers.** Proposed changes would reduce licensing barriers for out-of-state teachers and other highly knowledgeable adults looking to enter the teaching profession. Related changes:
 - **Out-of-State Candidates:** Eliminates transcript analysis by higher education institutions. Requires these applicants to have three years of expertise in good standing to receive a proficient practitioner license. Otherwise, they will receive an initial practitioner license.
 - **Changing Professions:** A teaching candidate with a baccalaureate degree may obtain an Education minor and pass a content-knowledge test for licensure.
- **Eases Restrictions on License Suspensions/Revocations.** Proposed changes would allow IDOE to accept license surrenders for suspensions/revocations. This allows the Department to receive surrenders from license-holders who are facing criminal charges and allows the Department to provide a quicker response for license revocations.

When and how will educators be subject to these changes?

- New rules would go into effect July 31, 2010.
- Current teachers will convert their licenses to coincide with these new rules upon renewal. The only exception will be for a LIFE license issued under a prior licensing system.
- The transition period between Rules 2002, Indiana's current licensing regulations, and the REPA will be between the day the new rule is approved and August 31, 2013, for people currently enrolled in educator preparation programs within Indiana.